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INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES IN NORTHEAST,
EAST, AND NORTH CHINA, NOVEMBER 1953-JANUARY 1954

[Comment: This report presents information taken from the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, the Tientsin Ta Kung Pao, and the Hong Kong Ta Kung Pao between 1 November 1953 and 28 January 1954, on activities affecting production of iron and steel building materials, machinery, and other industrial products in East, North-east and North China.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Iron and Steel Industries

In 1953, the An-shan Iron and Steel Company earned enough profits to build over five seamless steel tubing plants of the size recently built by this firm. The 1953 earnings, as announced by the Government, exceeded the 1952 quota by 36 percent and the 1951 quota by 187 percent. In 1953, almost 40 metric tons less raw materials than formerly were required in the production of a ton of refined steel.(1)

In November 1953, the construction of China's largest mechanized and automatic rolling mill of the An-shan Iron and Steel Company was completed and trial operations were carried out successfully. This mill has a greater production capacity than that called for in the original plans.(2)

On 31 October 1953, the An-shan Seamless Steel Tubing Plant, which was organized in July 1953, completed its production quota (period not given) and formally transferred its products to the production department of the An-shan Iron and Steel Company for allocation to the various departments or plants for further processing.(3) In January 1954, some 180 women workers doing the same type of work done by men were being employed at this plant.(4)

In 1953, the Ta-yeh Steelworks of the Hua-chung Iron and Steel Company produced 62 different types of steel products according to national standards and was able to exceed the annual production quota for 90 percent of the products. In addition, this steelworks supplied materials to the An-shan Iron and Steel Company, the Chi-hsi Mining Bureau, the Hankow Automotive Spare Parts Plant, the Ch'ang-shan Machinery Plant and other plants.(5)

By introducing the use of oxygen in its furnaces in the refining of steel, the Fu-shun Steelworks has been able to reduce the time required in the manufacture of steel by one-half. The use of oxygen increases the intensity of heat causing scrap metal to melt more rapidly. This reduced the amount of electric power used.(6)

Machinery and Miscellaneous Industries

According to preliminary statistics of Shanghai's 1953 production, 135 plants exceeded their production quota netting a profit of about 870 billion yuan. Forty-one heavy industrial plants completed their annual production quota and their fourth quarter goals. The machinery, electrical equipment, iron and steel, and chemical industries in Shanghai exceed their annual quota by 11 percent.(5)

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In 1953, the first year of the Five-Year Plan, 43 state-operated machinery, electrical, rubber, textile, and pharmaceutical plants in Mukden installed new equipment in their plants. The Lathe [chi-ch'uang] Factory No 1, the Blower Equipment Plant, the Heavy Machinery Factory and the Mining Equipment Factory installed several hundred pieces of machinery.(7)

In Heilungkiang, five of the six local state-operated plants, which were built in 1953, started production. The Heilungkiang Machinery Plant No 2, equipped with furnaces and machine tools, began producing water heaters in July 1953. On 28 December 1953, the Hung-kuang Sugar Plant went into production. This plant will produce about 25,000 tons of granulated sugar annually. The Heilungkiang Soap Plant started production in July 1953 and will produce about 1,000 tons of soap annually. The An-ta Powdered Milk Company, completed in December 1953, produces almost 600,000 pounds of powdered milk daily. The Heilungkiang Pen Factory has started to produce and will put out 100,000 pens of various sizes in 1954. The construction of the large-scale Heilungkiang Paper Mill is nearing completion. It is estimated that when completed this plant, with over 16,000 square meters of floor space, will be able to produce about 18 tons of newsprint paper per day (8)

Building Materials

The expansion of the privately operated Ch'i-hsin Cement Company in T'ang-shan, between 1949 and 1953, was greater than any other period in its 50-year history. Using the 1948 production figure as 100, the 1951 production increased to 226.56, and 1952 to 242.22, which was 18.5 percent higher than the previous high of 1942. Using the 1950 cement production cost of this plant as 100, the 1951 production cost was reduced by 18.81 percent; and 1952, by 29.15 percent. The production cost for the first 6 months of 1953 was reduced by 8.33 percent as compared to the same period for 1950. The number of employees has increased to 5,000 and an additional 5,250 cubic meters of space has been built up to 1953. At one time, Kiln No 5 produced only 22 tons of cement per hour but it can now produce over 300 tons per hour.(9)

The public-private jointly operated Yao-hua Glass Company, established in 1922, is one of the largest plate glass factories in China with facilities in both Shanghai and in Ch'in-huang-tao. The Ch'in-huang-tao Kiln No 2 produced 429,289 crates of plate glass in 1935; 568,572 crates in 1940; and 255,536 crates in 1948. In 1952, it increased its output to 845,959 crates. The Shanghai plant was reorganized in 1951. In 1952, the two plants produced a total of 994,000 crates to establish a new annual production record for the company. Since the substitution of domestic raw materials for those formerly imported, profit increased from 5,200,000,000 yuan in 1949 to 25,200,000,000 yuan in 1952.(3)

SOURCES

1. Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 24 Jan 54
2. Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 23 Nov 53
3. Ibid., 1 Nov 53
4. Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 14 Jan 54
5. Ibid., 11 Jan 54

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6. Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 23 Jan 54
7. Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 10 Nov 53
8. Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 28 Jan 54
9. Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 24 Nov 53

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